

LITERARY NOTES.

Mr. Joel Chandler Harris's volume of "Character Sketches" is in press at Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Another volume promised by this firm will contain the late W. D. O'Connor's strong and powerful stories, "The Brazen Android," "The Ghost," and "The Carpenter."

An article on the new Colorado lake has been written for "Scribner" by Major J. W. Powell.

Lord Cranbrook writes to "The London Times": "While our minds are all thinking of Lowell and him, may I not be of place to send you a record of his kindly humor. In conversation with him I had mentioned my use of some of his lines for an autograph—

Life is a leaf of paper white,

Whereas each one of us may write

His word or two—then comes the night.

The letter, a copy of which I inclose, carries its own explanation, and its date will make clear some allusions in it."

Thus reads the enclosed by Lord Cranbrook:

"10, Lower Slope, S. W., March 18, 1881.

Dear Sirs:—Allow me enough space to tell you that like puns in proportion to their poorness! If so, you will not be too much horrified with the contents of mine—that the first an-auto-graph of the kind left by a writer, and now to be seen in scientific museums on tablets of stone—where every store is set by them now, I fear, than by those of Moses. They were, at any rate, the only ones of the moment I thought worth writing to you. But I have found it dreadfully hard to do the same thing over again, especially while my head is humming with the three P's—pictorial rights, pigs in a sty! But I like to keep my word, and so I distract myself from it into service in hammering out the verses written opposite, which I hand over to your entire control for the exigencies of autograph-writing for the world paper business. Please don't thank me for them or you will make me ashamed. They will prove at least (and that is what they were meant for) how sincerely I am yours,

J. R. LOWELL.

CUVISQUNQUE.

On earth Columbus wrote his name,
Montgolfier on his circling air;

Lessons in water did the same;

Franklin tried his in living flame,

Newton's space's desire bare.

Sale with the primal elements

Their signatures august remain;

While the fierce hosts of events

Whirr us and our spherical tents

Beyond oblivion's more disdain.

Our names, as we write on, shall

Time spurns out like hopeless scores,

Unless in mint it should prevail

To curb awhile the faltering scale

Of memory, thus to make it yours.

QUIVVIS.

At the old stand in Grub-st., where all orders for autographs are supplied at the shortest notice. Specimens sent if desired. No connection with any other firm.

The forthcoming volume in the series of "Great French Writers" (English version), published by M. Churg, will bear Madame de Staél. The author is M. Albert Sarcl, and the translator Mrs. Gardner.

In his article on Lowell, in "The London Atheneum," Mr. Theodore Watts says: "To talk as many Americans have talked, of Lowell's subservience to the English aristocracy, is to talk with as much ignorance as spite. That stiffness of bearing in what is called specially 'society,' which at first used to be commented upon, but which soon passed away, was simply the raw expression of an invincible independence which once was rather too dogged and aggressive. He used to speak of himself as being an exceedingly shy man by nature. On one occasion I asked him to lunch with me, to meet an eminent man of letters whom he had never seen and wanted to see. Noticing that he hesitated, I said—in irony, of course—"I am afraid that the American Minister, who has posted most of the grandees of Europe, feels shy." He said, "I do, but never with grandees."

The venerable T. W. Parsons, to whom we owe some of the liveliest verse ever written in this country, sings thus to Lowell:

Like as the lark that soaring higher and higher

Sings awhile, then stops as 't were content

With his last sweetnes, having filled desire,

So paus'd our bard; not for his force was spent

That a string was loosened in his lyre,

But having said his say, and made his part,

He could not better what was given before

And three long years and ten demanding rest

Wanted—then wait on the other shore!

And now he walks amid the learned throng

With him who was the sixth of those

Who towered above the multitude in song,

Or by the side of Geoffrey Chaucer goes

Who shall remember with his wond'rous smile

How James found music in his antique style;

But well'll not mind his fancies with our sorrow

Nor from his own imagination borrow;

Holmes, who is left us, best could speak his praise

Who knew his heart so well and loved his lays

And when Heaven crowns with greater length of days.

An English writer says that a man of letters known as a severe critic of English prose was once asked whom he considered the three best writers of English prose in the present century. At once he replied, "Newman, Hawthorne and Charlotte Bronte."

Joseph Bain writes to "Notes and Queries" that Mrs. Carlyle was not, as has been claimed, a descendant of John Knox, and he seems to show conclusively that he is correct in this statement. He also does away with the assumption that in Mrs. Carlyle's veins also ran the blood of William Wallace.

Senior Castelar's "Life of Columbus" is to appear, beautifully illustrated, in the pages of "The Century."

New Publications.

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